Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method for assigning a device identifier to a device, the method comprising:

receiving a request ~~at a server from the device~~ for the device identifier ~~at a server,~~ wherein the request is accompanied by correlation data with unique identification information associated with the device;

obtaining the device identifier, the device identifier being ~~always associated with a same device subsequent to allocation of the device identifier and~~ unique from device identifiers of other devices ~~of~~ identified by the server and distinct from a network address of the device, ~~that is dynamically created by~~ wherein the device identifier is obtained at the server and ~~allocated~~ associated by the server with the correlation data from the device in response to the request ~~and unrelated to a network address, mobile phone number or host name of~~ from the device;

marking a status of the device identifier as pending;

sending the device identifier to the device, wherein the device identifier is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device;

marking the status of the device identifier as in use after receiving an acknowledgment from the device, wherein the acknowledgement is accompanied by correlation data associated with the device; and

sending a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received, wherein the confirmation is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device.

~~wherein the device is a wireless device that does not have a readily accessible device identifier or other communications related information.~~

2.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second acknowledgment from the device; and

sending a second confirmation to the device.

3.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising managing a set of device entries at the server, wherein each of the ~~set of~~ device entries ~~includes a~~ comprises a unique device identifier, a status indicator to indicate a status of the corresponding device identifier, and correlation data associated with the corresponding device identifier~~, and wherein the request includes correlation data for the device~~.

4.   (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the correlation data ~~includes a device type that is not the manufacturer~~ comprises:

device data to particularly identify the corresponding device; and

user data to identify a particular user of the corresponding device.

5.   (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein each of the ~~set of~~ device entries further includes a timestamp, ~~the~~ method further comprising setting the timestamp when the status is marked as pending.

6.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ obtaining ~~step includes~~ the device identifier comprises:

~~providing correlation data at the server;~~

generating ~~at least one~~ the device identifier ~~based on the correlation data~~ before the request from the device is received at the server;

marking the status of the ~~generated at least one~~ device identifier as unused; and

locating ~~one of the at least one~~ the device identifier having ~~a~~ the status marked as unused after the request is received ~~using the correlation data for the at least one device identifier and correlation data in the request~~.

7.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ obtaining ~~step includes~~ the device identifier comprises generating ~~a~~ the device identifier after receiving the request ~~using correlation data in the request~~.

8.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising marking the status of the device identifier as unused if the acknowledgment is not received after a time out period.

9.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

reusing the device identifier for another request received from another device after a time out period has elapsed; and

sending a rejection to the device if the acknowledgment is received after the time out period has elapsed.

10.   (currently amended) A method of obtaining a device identifier for a device, the method comprising:

sending a request for the device identifier to a server, the device identifier being ~~always associated with a same device subsequent to allocation of the device identifier and~~ unique from device identifiers of other devices ~~of~~ identified by the server and ~~unrelated to~~ distinct from a network address ~~or host name~~ of the device, wherein the request is accompanied by correlation data with unique identification information associated with the device;

sending an acknowledgment to the server after receiving the device identifier from the server, wherein the device identifier is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device; and

using the device identifier after receiving a confirmation from the server, wherein the confirmation is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device.

~~wherein the device is a wireless device that does not have a readily accessible device identifier or other communications related information.~~

11.   (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein a timestamp is also received from the server, and wherein the acknowledgment ~~includes~~ comprises the device identifier and the timestamp.

12.   (canceled)

13.   (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the correlation data ~~includes a device type that is not the manufacturer for~~ comprises:
        device data to particularly identify the device~~;~~ and
        user data ~~for a~~ to identify a particular user of the device.

14.   (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising sending a second acknowledgment to the server if the confirmation has not been received after a time out period.

15.   (currently amended) A system for assigning a device identifier to a device, the system comprising:
        an assignment system for managing an assignment of the device identifier at a server, wherein the assignment system is configured to:
            ~~obtains~~ obtain the device identifier in response to a request, the device identifier being ~~always associated with a same device subsequent to allocation of the device identifier and~~ unique from device identifiers of other devices ~~of~~ identified by the server and ~~unrelated to~~ distinct from a network address ~~or host name~~ of the device,
            ~~marks~~ mark a status of the device identifier as pending, and
            ~~marks~~ mark the status of the device identifier as in use in response to an acknowledgment of the device identifier from the device; and
        a server communication system ~~for~~ configured to:
            receive the request from the device, wherein the request is accompanied by correlation data with unique identification information associated with the device,

sending send the device identifier to the device, wherein the device identifier is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device,

sending send a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received, wherein the acknowledgement is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device, and

for receiving the request and receive the acknowledgment from the device, wherein the confirmation is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device.

wherein the device is a wireless device that does not have a readily accessible device identifier or other communications related information.

16.   (original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a request system for obtaining the device identifier from the server, wherein the request system generates the request and the acknowledgment;

a device communication system for sending the request and the acknowledgment to the server, and for receiving the device identifier and the confirmation from the server; and

an identifier system that uses the device identifier after the confirmation is received.

17.   (currently amended) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a management system for managing a set of device entries, wherein each of the set of device entries includes comprises a unique device identifier, a status indicator to indicate a status of the corresponding device identifier, and correlation data associated with the corresponding device identifier, wherein the request includes correlation data for the device; and

a comparison system for obtaining one of the set of device entries based on correlation data for the device.

18.   (currently amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for assigning device identifiers, which when executed comprises:

program code for receiving a request for the device identifier at a server, wherein the request is accompanied by correlation data with unique identification information associated with a device;

program code for obtaining the device identifier, the device identifier being ~~always associated with a same device subsequent to allocation of the device identifier and~~ unique from device identifiers of other devices ~~of~~ identified by the server and ~~unrelated to~~ distinct from a network address ~~or host name~~ of the device;

program code for marking a status of the device identifier as pending;

program code for sending the device identifier to the device, wherein the device identifier is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device;

program code for marking the status of the device identifier as in use after receiving an acknowledgment from the device, wherein the acknowledgement is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device; and

program code for sending a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received, wherein the confirmation is accompanied by the correlation data associated with the device.

~~wherein the device is a wireless device that does not have a readily accessible device identifier or other communications related information.~~

19.   (original) The program product of claim 18, further comprising:

program code for sending the request to the server;

program code for sending the acknowledgment to the server after receiving the device identifier from the server; and

program code for using the device identifier after receiving the confirmation from the server.

20.   (original) The program product of claim 18, further comprising:

program code for reusing the device identifier for another request received from another device after a time out period has elapsed; and

program code for sending a rejection to the device if the acknowledgment is received after the time out period has elapsed.

21.   (new) The method of claim 1, wherein a value of the device identifier prior to the request is indicative of an unused status of the device identifier.